

# The Morning Astorian

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## THE COURT HOUSE MUDDLE.

Those money-lenders who declined to accept general fund warrants tendered in payment of the court house construction are not, perhaps, to be blamed. While the warrants are just as good as any general fund scrip could be—the people of Clatsop county would never repudiate any debt—a large sum of money, perhaps more than \$100,000, is involved. Few men would "take a chance" with \$100,000 and buy up warrants that might be declared illegal before the special court house levy nets the entire amount required for the work.

But it is evident that this legal impediment to the needed improvement has been created by the obstructionist element, which has so long held back Astoria and Clatsop county. For two months the county court has been issuing general fund warrants to pay for the court house construction, yet the legal surplus has been withheld until this late date. It seems to have originated in a mysterious manner, and the presumption is plain that the "nigger in the woodpile" numbers himself one of the mossback element. Admitting that there are legal technicalities in the way of payments of the kind undertaken by Clatsop's court, the objection just raised will stand as an everlasting disgrace to the non-progressive element of this community. If ever there was a needed improvement, that improvement is the new court house, and that any man or set of men should seek to stand in its way is almost beyond comprehension. Yet such are the ways of the mossback.

Astoria is trying to secure a new hotel. It is erecting a \$45,000 city hall. On every hand the progressive element is displaying its public spirit. The great majority of the people of the city have manifested a disposition to build up their community. Hundreds of new buildings have gone up within the past two years, and hundreds of people are clamoring for other buildings. The city is trying to grow and most of the people are working with this end in view.

Just at this propitious period in Astoria's history comes this deplorable knock—this cry for a halt on progress. It is the retrogressive cry of the obstructionist; of the man who himself can not succeed and would prevent others from succeeding; of the man who has seen his home city rot around him and has seemingly gloried in its decay. This is the man who would beat the city out of a street assessment upon the flimsiest pretext; the man who would happily stand in the way of every improvement calculated to better his fellow-townsmen.

It is up to the progressive element of Astoria to ride rough-shod over the mossback. He is a barnacle on the body politic and entitled to absolutely no consideration. He is a constant menace to the upbuilding of the city and has no proper place among those whose by-word is progress. He has driven from Astoria dozens of hustling citizens, who have turned away in disgust at his efforts to block advancement. Did the progressive citizen ever stop for a moment to think of the many well-to-do, wide-awake men who have left Astoria in the past few years? Does it occur to them that men of this character will not live in a community that is held back by obstructionists?

The legislative delegation should be appealed to in this crisis. Clatsop county is in excellent financial condition. Its debt is insignificant and it is well able to build its new court house and to pay for it. It can well afford to be in debt—heavily in debt, in view of late developments. Let the progressive people together and petition the legislative delegation to bring about the enactment of a bill authorizing the county court to bond Clatsop county for \$200,000 for the court house and an additional \$100,000 for roads. Give the mossback a goodly dose of his own medicine. It is high time for the city and the county to declare themselves against this undesirable element, and the present muddle affords excellent opportunity of carrying out the plan.

## THE POOR OF ENGLAND.

It is a deplorable announcement that scores of thousands of people in England are on the verge of starvation because of the depression in the cotton industries. We do not know that it will cause even an uncomfortable quarter of an hour to the sordid

gamblers in this country whose reckless manipulation of the market was one of the chief causes of such distress. They are probably more concerned over the prospective decrease of demand for American cotton through the development of cotton growing elsewhere than they are over the mere distress and starvation of thousands of men, women and children. But the circumstance calls renewed attention to the narrow margin of subsistence enjoyed by multitudes in England under free trade, says the New York Tribune.

The fact is that a considerable part of the population of England and Wales is perennially on the verge of starvation, while a not inconsiderable part is actually dependent upon public charity. More than \$121,000,000 a year is raised by taxation in that kingdom for the relief of the poor and for the maintenance of some 850,000 actual paupers. That is about one pauper in every 40 of the population. London pays more than \$21,000,000 a year to the "poor rates," which is equal to a tax for that purpose of more than \$4.65 a year upon each person in the metropolis. The average tax for the support of the poor is about \$2.38 a year upon each man, woman and child in the whole kingdom.

That is a depressing showing, the more so as the statistics of pauperism do not indicate the continued and rapid decrease that was boasted some years ago. There is, it is true, a slight decrease, proportionately to the population, in the statistics of the last half century. There were only 847,470 paupers in 1903, compared with 860,893 in 1851 and 890,372 in 1873; but, then, there were only 728,350 in 1877, and in 1902 there were 22,800 fewer than in 1903. Such a state and tendency of affairs forms a sad commentary upon the pretence of Cobdenism that everything is for the best under the best possible of fiscal systems, and gives added emphasis to the inquiry of Mr. Chamberlain whether it may not, after all, be possible to devise some better system than that of half a century and more ago.

## RIGHT MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

Next to the re-election of President Roosevelt himself, the announcement that John Hay will continue secretary of state during the whole of the coming four years is the most important and gratifying result of the people's verdict so far accomplished. It is a decision which distinctly makes for peace, and it will be welcomed abroad almost as much as at home. Mr. Hay is today one of the most prominent figures in the diplomatic world, and probably the most successful. He has kept the door for foreign trade open in the far east, and to him more than any other one man is due the credit for preventing the partition of China after the Boxer uprising and for limiting the area of the Russo-Japanese war. At the present moment Great Britain and France are basing their strongest hope for an early ending of that awful conflict upon his wise, cautious and singularly successful diplomacy. Theodore Roosevelt could not have contrived a more auspicious beginning of what he himself calls his second term than by persuading John Hay to remain in office, notwithstanding the secretary of state's personal preference for retirement and rest. With the strong probability of a second meeting of the Hague peace conference during the coming year, it is of both national and international importance that the great apostle of universal peace and arbitration should continue to direct America's part in that momentous meeting, the possible consequences of which it is impossible now to estimate. The chief place in the cabinet is thus happily fixed, and the president, Secretary Hay, the American people and the friends of peace everywhere are equally entitled to congratulations.

The Standard Oil Company is likely to meet with some new competition in India. According to a recent British statistical report, the importation of oil into India during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1904, fell off nearly 10,000,000 gallons. During the preceding year there was an almost identical decline, so that, compared with the fiscal year 1901-2, the reduction was nearly 20,000,000 gallons, equal to 21.7 per cent. The decline in the import of Russian oil was 19.4 per cent, and of American oil 27 per cent. The rapid development of the Indian oil fields has caused this decreased import. The Indian oil is not yet of as good quality as most of the imported oil, but its cheapness secures it a market. American oil, it is said, has security for a limited market in its superior quality, but keen competition among all the common grades seems assured. But if the Standard Oil Company adheres to its usual policy, the Rockefeller interests will presently buy up the new Indian oil wells.

The Social Democrats are highly jubilant over the fact that their presidential ticket headed by Eugene V. Debs, received probably 500,000 votes throughout the union. They will find some sobering information in the reflection that James B. Weaver, the People's candidate for president, received over 1,000,000 votes in 1892 and that a little later the Populists carried a number of western states. Both of these sporadic political movements have virtually become memories.

President Roosevelt has four years to pick out a lifetime vocation. College professor and gentleman farmer are the leading lines open to him.

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For Men.

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## Overcoats!

Remember we are offering special values in OVERCOATS, not alone in price, but in overcoats that are "creations" from the best tailors of America. In this vast assortment of swell garments we can "fit the hard to fit," "please the hard to please," at about one-half your tailor's price.

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P. A. STOKES

Swell Togs  
For Men.

## Church Services Tomorrow.

At the Baptist church the pastor will preach on the subject of "Foreign Missions, in the morning, and in the evening will speak about "The Workers and the Drones." All other services as usual.

Scandinavian M. E. church, corner of Thirty-seventh and Duane streets.—C. Aug. Petersen, the pastor, will preach at 11 a. m. and 7:45 p. m.; Sunday school at 10 a. m.

Services at the First Lutheran church tomorrow as follows: Sunday school at 9:30 a. m. Morning service at 10:45, in Swedish. Subject for sermon: "The Last Judgment." Evening service at 7:45 in English. This service will consist chiefly of music and will therefore be a song service. First M. E. church.—Rev. W. S. Grim, the pastor, will preach at 11 a. m. on "Man's Search For Himself," and at 7:30 p. m. from the subject "Man's Search For God." Sunday school at 12:15 p. m. Epworth League at 6:30 p. m.

First Congregational.—Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by the pastor, Rev. Luther D. Mahone. Morning subject: "The Supreme Need of the Church." Evening, "Arrested Development." Sunday school, 12:30 p. m.

Doesn't Respect Old Age. It's shameful when youth fails to show proper respect for old age, but just the contrary in the case of Dr. King's New Life Pills. They cut off maladies no matter how severe and irrespective of old age. Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Fever, Constipation, all yield to these perfect pills. 25c, at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

## Second Division Is Cautious

Paffeborg, Denmark, Nov. 18.—The second division of the Russian Baltic squadron has arrived here and is anchored near the lighthouse.

## Plan Beet Raising Company.

North Yakima, Nov. 18.—A meeting of the leading business men of the city was held today and arrangements made to organize a stock company with \$25,000 capital stock to raise sugar beets on the reservation. The plant will be built at this place during the winter.

## Organize a Civic League.

Everett, Nov. 18.—At a meeting last night of the newly organized Civic league the following officers were chosen: president, Dr. W. C. Cox; first vice-president, N. E. Westover; second vice-president, C. J. House; third vice-president, W. F. Hall; secretary, E. W. Husted; treasurer, J. A. Hjalmsell.

## MASQUERADE BALL.

Thanksgiving Eve,  
Wednesday, Nov. 23rd.

By Concealment, Tribe,  
Improved Order Red Men.

Foard & Stokes Hall.

## The STAR THEATER

ASTORIA'S FASHIONABLE VAUDEVILLE HOUSE IN CONNECTION WITH STAR AND ARCADE THEATERS OF PORTLAND " " " "

Change of Program Monday.  
Change of Acts Thursdays

MATINEE DAILY AT 2:45 P. M.

MONSTER BILL  
Week Beginning  
MONDAY MATINEE, NOV. 14

## Feature Act.

SYLVESTER, JONES and PRINGLE

Kings of Minstrels—Greatest Singing Act on the Stage.

PAUL LA CROIX

Comedy Juggler of Nimble Fingers, Who Gets Real Busy.

IRENE KOBER

A Novelty Artist Whose Long Suit is Springing Delightful Surprises.

THE THREE KELLEYS

Singers, Dancers and Comedians, Introducing Baby Kelly, the World's Greatest Child Dancer.

Astoria's Favorite Baritone

EDOUARD SCOTT,

In Pictured Melodies, Singing "Way Down in Old Indiana," Published by Howley Dresser, New York.

EDISON'S PROJECTOSCOPE,

Depicting Recent Events by Life Motion Pictures.

Admission 10c to any seat.

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